Isambard Kingdom Brunel
200th Anniversary
2nd Edition
Works in Wales

This year; 2006, offered a national opportunity to look back on Brunel’s achievements through the celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of his birth, and whilst his works can be found in many other locations outside south Wales, it was south Wales that provided the location and the proving ground for some of his greatest works. Brunel’s railways made up a considerable part of the transport infrastructure necessary to exploit the mineral wealth of south Wales which in turn led to the creation of new communities. His innovative genius is evident from the start, for example with his skew crossing of the river Taff at Goitre Coed for the Taff Vale Railway. The Brunelian solution here was a graceful six arched viaduct that did not look like a conventional skew viaduct, the spans springing from octagon piers. The Taff Vale Railway could not, however, be called a line of communications, but Brunel was to address such a need, not only for Wales but as part of a strategic route to Ireland, when he returned with the broad gauge and went on to act as engineer to over six separate railways. On the broad gauge (7ft 1/4in) South Wales Railway his ideas for bowstring girders and tubular suspension spans were first developed with his only surviving timber work still carrying traffic today. To minimise coal breakage from collieries to docks such as Briton Ferry, Brunel introduced containerisation on the Vale of Neath Railway. The port of Milford Haven was selected by Brunel for the PSS *Great Eastern*, a ship equipped by Brown Lenox of Pontypridd with a record-breaking size of chain cable. Just some examples of his legacy in south Wales.

The industrial infrastructure of Wales was created through innovation, a factor crucial today in transforming the economy into a knowledge-based one. For our track record so far see; ‘*Welsh Achievements in Science, Technology and Engineering*’. Find out about this and how innovation can work for your business at www.innovationworkscampaign.co.uk

There is another major engineering anniversary to celebrate next year, 9 August 2007 marking the 250 anniversary of Telford’s birth. Bangor in north Wales will be the location for a major conference; ‘*The Telford Legacy in North Wales*’ from Monday to Friday, 9 to 13 July.
EXHIBITIONS and EVENTS

Note restricted access at school locations, please check before hand. The third Neyland entry is a new exhibition.

2006

26/06/06- NEYLAND at Bethesda Church Hall, Neyland. Contact: Gareth Hopkin Tel: 01646 602873.

17/07/06- NEWPORT Newport Museum and Art Gallery. Contact: Rachael Anderton. Tel: 01633 656656

19/08/06- SOUTH EAST WALES the Victorian Society’s Brunel in South Wales guided tour, starting in Cardiff. Contact Elaine Davey (Victorian Society); email; elainedavey@msm.com.

11/09/06- NEATH Cwrt Sart Comprehensive School, Neath. Contact: Peter Harrison (Head) Tel: 01639 777890

14/09/06- NEYLAND Brunel Festival. See www.neysland.org.uk and www.brunel2006.info for further details. Contact Simon Hancock Tel: 01646 601081

16/09/06- NEWPORT Crow Point Festival, celebrating a hundred years of the Newport Transporter Bridge. Contact Tel: 07870 483826 or email; ferdinand@crowpoint.co.uk

02/10/06- CARDIFF Old Library, Cardiff. Contact: Anna Smith Tel: 02920 873310

2007


2007. A tour is also planned on 9 August taking in Pont Cysyllte aqueduct, Conwy Bridge, Menai Bridge and Holyhead. Check the ICE web site and look out for Telford 250.

The following is a listing of the locations for the touring exhibition and other events commemorating Brunel 200, and such has been the interest and demand that these spill over well into 2007. For further details and additional events see the ‘what’s on section of the HERIAN website at www.herian.org, the Brunel 200 website www.brunel200.com and www.ice.org.uk The National Waterfront Museum’s touring exhibition; ‘Brunel: Gweithiau yng Nghymru - Works in Wales’, has been made possible through generous support from the Institution of Civil Engineers (Wales) and the South Wales Institute of Engineers, who have also commemorated the anniversary through the bilingual plaquing of landmark structures – two plaques still to be presented – see the ICE and SWIE websites. The last event at Bridgend was attended by, amongst others (L to R); Chris Gray, Chairman of ICE Wales, Gordon Masterton, ICE President and Brunel himself (aka Chris Code)!
17/10/06 SWANSEA SWWIAS
Contact Alan Williams Email: castlesatlandore@btopenworld.com
19/10/06 BRECON University of the Third Age
Contact Jean Hosie Tel: 01874 711893
09/11/06 PENARTH Penarth Local History Society
Contact Beverly Williams Tel: 01446 408330
15/11/06 CARDIFF Cardiff Scientific Society
Contact Deborah Spillards Tel: 029 2057 3159
22/11/06 CARDIFF Old Library Contact:
Anna Smith Tel: 02920 873310
06/12/06 PORT TALBOT Port Talbot Local
History Society Contact
Mrs E Northcott Tel: 01639 887851
2007
17/01/07 CHEPSTOW Chepstow Society
Contact Keith Underwood Tel: 01291 623316
01/02/07 GLYNNEATH Glynneath History Society
Contact Glyn Davies Tel: 01639 721328
22/02/07 EBBW VALE Ebbw Vale Metallurgical &
Historical Society Contact Malcolm Davies Tel: 01873 853872
29/03/07 SWANSEA Royal Institution of South
Wales Contact Bernard Morris
Tel: 01792 402034
BARRY Vale of Glamorgan
Railway Society Contact
Janet Small Tel: 01446 748816

2006
11/07/06 CHEPSTOW Isambard Kingdom Brunel,
by R. Angus Buchanan. A Chepstow Arts
and Community Festival event at the
Drill Hall.

Stephen K. Jones, author of Brunel in South Wales, will talk at the following venues;

06/07/06 CARDIFF Cardiff University Innovation
Network's Innovation Marketplace's
workshop on IKB200: Today's Lessons from Yesterday's Big Innovations. Email:
Innovation@cardiff.ac.uk

02/08/06 PONTYPRIDD Pontypridd Museum,
Bridge Street, Contact: Brian Davies Tel:
01443 490748

12/09/06 CARDIFF Joint engineering meeting,
including ICE (Wales), at the Trevithick
Lecture Theatre, School of Engineering,
Cardiff University, Newport Road, Cardiff,
Contact Felicity White Tel: 029 2063 0561.

14/09/06 NEYLAND Brunel Festival event at
Neyland Library. See contact details above.

21/09/06 ABERDARE Cynon Valley History Society,
Contact Hadyn Williams Tel: 01685 879793
To view a gazetteer of Brunel's principal works in Wales visit the websites below.

I weld rhestr o brif weithiau Brunel yn Nghymru ymwlch at bwelmanau i sod.

Cynllun y logo a darlun SS Great Britain gan Owen Eardley, llun traphont bren Dar gan Glyn Davies, murlun canol tref Merthyr Tudful gan ffrywr a staff Coleg Merthyr Tudful, lluniau a thestun a lluniau lliw gan Stephen K. Jones.